

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int I Application No
PCT/GB2004/005319

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B23K26/00 B60R13/10 B44B7/00 F16M11/04 F16M13/04
B23K26/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B23K B60R B44B F16M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 362 451 B1 (Z. KARNI ET AL) 26 March 2002 (2002-03-26) column 1, lines 7-14	1-5, 7-11, 15, 16
Y	column 5, line 39 - column 7, line 27; figures 2,3; example 1 -----	6, 12-14
Y	US 4 037 763 A (D. TURCHEN ET AL) 26 July 1977 (1977-07-26) column 3, line 61 - column 4, line 3; figure 1 -----	6
Y	US 2003/226835 A1 (J.T. BELL ET AL) 11 December 2003 (2003-12-11)	12-14
Y	paragraphs '0001! - '0003!, '0082! - '0091!; figures 2,3 ----- -/--	12-14

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/04/2005

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98/34789 A (CHROMATRON LASER SYSTEMS GMBH ; A. KUNTZE) 13 August 1998 (1998-08-13)	1-3, 10-13, 15,16
Y	page 9, paragraph 4 - page 13, paragraph 2; figures 1-3	4-8,13
Y	----- US 5 298 717 A (T.A. DEROSSETT, JR. ET AL) 29 March 1994 (1994-03-29) cited in the application the whole document	4,5,7,8, 13
Y	----- US 5 963 749 A (L. NICHOLSON ET AL) 5 October 1999 (1999-10-05) column 4, lines 52-54; figure 1	6
X	----- DE 100 59 246 A1 (EADS DEUTSCHLAND GMBH) 13 June 2002 (2002-06-13) paragraphs '0001!, '0035!, '0039!, '0043!; figures 1,2	1-3, 10-13,16

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international application No.
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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.: 17-18
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 17-18
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 17-18

Present claims 17-18 relate to an extremely large number of possible combination of features for an apparatus and of steps for the method. In fact, no clear features or steps are actually defined in these claims, so that a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claims impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear (and concise), namely claims 1-16.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6362451	B1	26-03-2002	AU 3357397 A 09-02-1998 EP 0918591 A1 02-06-1999 WO 9802272 A1 22-01-1998 JP 2000514715 T 07-11-2000
US 4037763	A	26-07-1977	NONE
US 2003226835	A1	11-12-2003	EP 1340585 A1 03-09-2003 AU 2003205905 A1 09-09-2003 BR 0308066 A 28-12-2004 EP 1480779 A1 01-12-2004 WO 03072297 A1 04-09-2003
WO 9834789	A	13-08-1998	DE 19706038 A1 20-08-1998 AT 200649 T 15-05-2001 AU 6717898 A 26-08-1998 CA 2279307 A1 13-08-1998 CN 1246826 A 08-03-2000 WO 9834789 A1 13-08-1998 DE 59800640 D1 23-05-2001 EP 0961688 A1 08-12-1999 JP 2001510409 T 31-07-2001 NO 993786 A 05-10-1999 US 6700094 B1 02-03-2004
US 5298717	A	29-03-1994	NONE
US 5963749	A	05-10-1999	NONE
DE 10059246	A1	13-06-2002	NONE